



NEWS RELEASE

IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

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Water Board Reviews Two Major Water Planning Efforts

The Idaho Water Resource Board, during its regular board meeting last week, reviewed updates on two major long-term water planning efforts.

Consultants, CDR Associates, reported that the Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan (CAMP) activity was moving from a development stage to an operational mode. Proposed actions and projects designed to reduce water conflicts in the area of the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA) are being discussed.

The CAMP Advisory Committee is comprised of 39 representatives, including alternates that are a cross section of the water user community, industry, and government. The committee's goal is to find practical, realistic, and cost-effective solutions to water supply and demand problems being experienced across the ESPA.

The committee has been meeting in various cities in the vicinity of the ESPA since April in an effort to develop recommendations for management of the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer.

The Board was also briefed on progress related to updating of the State Water Plan, which was last revised in 1996. The water plan establishes state policy that guides development, management, and conservation of Idaho's water resources to meet the current and future water needs in the state.

(more)

The Board is seeking public input. Comments, suggestions, or questions about the State Water Plan update can be submitted via e-mail to iwrb-swp@idwr.idaho.gov or by mail to IDWR Attn: Helen Harrington, PO Box 83720, Boise, Idaho 83720-0098.

Prior to the plan's adoption, a series of public meetings will be conducted around the state seeking comment on a draft plan. Submission of the final plan to the Idaho Legislature is expected prior to the 2010 session.

The Board was also given an update on the first ever post-season recharge project. The project delivered storage water through the North Side Canal system in order for the water to percolate into the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer.

This project was a component of mitigation agreements submitted by the Idaho Ground Water Appropriators, several food processors, and the Idaho Dairymen's Association on June 29 in order to avoid water curtailment that was set to take effect July 6.

The post-season recharge was considered a success. Ninety-one percent of the 29,500 acre feet of water went into the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer before the project was halted due to the onset of cold late November temperatures.

The next Idaho Water Resource Board meeting and work session will be held Jan. 24-25 in Boise. A complete agenda will be posted at www.idwr.idaho.gov/waterboard.

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